



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2001

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(202)289-6400

States Schedule Public Meetings on Draft Lobster Addendum III *Public Comment Accepted Until December 31, 2001*

Washington, DC – The Atlantic coastal states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York have scheduled the dates and times of their public meetings in order to gather public comment and input on the recently released Draft Addendum III to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. Maine, New Jersey and Maryland will also be conducting public meetings, although the specifics of those meetings have not been finalized. For more information, contact the respective state marine fishery agency. Following are the details of the scheduled meetings.

November 14, 2001; 7:00 PM

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Stratford Ramada
225 Lordship Boulevard
Stratford, Connecticut
Contact: Ernest Beckwith at (860) 434-6043

November 15, 2001; 7:00 PM

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut
Contact: Ernest Beckwith at (860) 434-6043

November 28, 2001; 7:30 PM

New York Department of Environmental Conservation
205 North Belle Meade Road
East Setauket, New York
Contact: Gordon Colvin at (631) 444-0430

December 5, 2001; 7:00 PM

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
University of Rhode Island, Coastal Institute
Conference & Visitor Center, Room A & B
220 South Ferry Road
Narragansett, Rhode Island
Contact: Brian Murphy at (401) 782-4713

December 10, 2001; 7:00 PM

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Division of Law Enforcement Office
Hewitt's Cove
349 Lincoln Street, Building 45
Hingham, Massachusetts
Contact: Jim Fair at (617) 626-1534

December 11, 2001; 7:00 PM

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Gloucester Fuller School
Blackburn Circle
Gloucester, Massachusetts
Contact: Jim Fair at (617) 626-1534

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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(202)289-6400 (phone) (202)289-6051 (fax)
www.asmf.org

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December 12, 2001; 7:00 PM

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Massachusetts Maritime Academy Auditorium
101 Academy Drive
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts
Contact: Jim Fair at (617) 626-1534

December 12, 2001; 7:30 PM

New Hampshire Fish & Game
Urban Forestry Center
Elwyn Road
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Contact: Clare McBane at (603) 868-1095

Draft Addendum III incorporates the alternative management programs for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Outer Cape Cod as developed by the respective Lobster Conservation Management Teams (LCMTs). Addendum III was developed in response to an Addendum II requirement whereby each LCMT was asked to review the revised egg rebuilding schedule, the previous LCMT recommendation, and the area management program, if any, and present to the Board alternative measures that will achieve the stock rebuilding targets. Specifically, the Draft Addendum proposes new management measures applicable to commercial fishing in Lobster Management Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and Outer Cape Cod, which provide for the following:

Area 1 (Gulf of Maine) – Escape vent size increase to 2-inch in 2007 (if necessary), zero tolerance definition of v-notching, and mandatory v-notching requirements;

Area 3 (Offshore) – Mandatory v-notching requirements (above the 42° 30' latitude in Gulf of Maine), five-mile overlap boundary between Areas 3 and 5, and a choose and use provision;

Area 4 (Southern New England) – Minimum gauge size increases, maximum gauge size (if necessary);

Area 5 (Mid-Atlantic) – Minimum gauge size increases, maximum gauge size (if necessary), vessel upgrade limit;

Area 6 (New York & Connecticut State Waters) – Minimum gauge size increases (if necessary), escape vent size increase (if necessary); and

Outer Cape Cod – Minimum gauge size increases, trap reduction schedule, annual trap transfer period and passive reductions, and additional contingency measures.

Copies of the Draft Addendum III can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's website at <http://www.asmfc.org>. Public comment will be accepted until December 31, 2001 and should be forwarded to Heather Stirratt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, N.W., Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax). For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt at (202) 289-6400, ext. 301, or hstirratt@asmfc.org.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at tberger@asmfc.org or fax to (202) 289-6051.